

Thursday
April 17, 2025

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Important notice: Aruba Today takes a break for Easter Weekend

Page 9

Take in the sunset at these perfect locations



Page 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm
ANGELA FLORES
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6:30 - 8:30pm

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AmeriCorps members who respond to disasters and help nonprofits are let go in DOGE cuts

By HANNAH FINGERHUT

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

Young volunteers who respond to natural disasters and help with community projects across the U.S. have been discharged as a result of the Trump administration's campaign to shrink government workforce and services.

AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps informed volunteers Tuesday that they would exit the program early "due to programmatic circumstances beyond your control," according to an email obtained by The Associated Press.

More than 2,000 people ages 18 to 26 serve for nearly a year, according



As President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton mark the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps national service program, hundreds of new volunteers are sworn in for duty at a ceremony, Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

to the program's website, and get assigned to projects with nonprofits and community organizations

or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It celebrated its 30th year last year.

ment from AmeriCorps. Funding for AmeriCorps and NCCC has long been included when there are talks in Congress of budget trims. The federal agency's budget showed NCCC funding amounted to nearly \$38 million last fiscal year. The unsigned memo to members said NCCC's "ability to sustain program operations" was impacted by "new operational parameters" laid out by the Trump administration's priorities and President Donald Trump's executive order creating the Department of Government Efficiency. Members, who receive a living allowance and have basic expenses covered, would be paid through the end of April, according to the memo.

The program also provides members who complete their 1,700-hour service term with funding for future education expenses or to apply to certain student loans. That benefit was worth about \$7,300 this service year.

The memo stated that those who have completed 15% or more of their term would be eligible for a pro-rated amount, but those that have completed less would not be eligible.

There's always been "bipartisan support" of NCCC — "and bipartisan criticism," said Kate Raftery, who was NCCC director from 2011 to 2014.

Raftery said the abrupt departure of these service teams would have lasting damage both on the NCCC members who were gaining education and launching careers as well as the organizations that depend on them and the neighborhoods where they served. □

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Judge finds cause to hold Trump administration in criminal contempt for violating deportation order

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Wednesday said he has found probable cause to hold the Trump administration in criminal contempt of court and warned he could seek officials' prosecution for violating his orders last month to turn around planes carrying deportees to an El Salvador prison.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg, whom President Donald Trump has said should be impeached, marks a dramatic battle between the judicial and executive branches of government over the president's powers to carry out key White House priorities.

Boasberg accused administration officials of rushing deportees out of the country under the Alien Enemies Act last month before they could challenge their removal in court, and then willfully disregarding his order that planes already in the air should return to the United States.

The judge said he could hold hearings and potentially refer the matter for prosecution if the administration does not act to remedy the violation. If Trump's Justice Department leadership declines to prosecute the matter, Boasberg said he will appoint another attorney to do so.

"The Constitution does not tolerate willful disobedience of judicial orders especially by officials of a coordinate branch who have sworn an oath to uphold it," wrote Boasberg, the chief judge of Washington's federal court.

The administration said it would appeal.

"The President is 100% committed to ensuring that terrorists and criminal illegal migrants are no longer a threat to Americans and their communities across the country," White House communications director Steven Cheung wrote in a post on X.



A mega-prison known as Detention Center Against Terrorism (CECOT) stands in Tecoluca, El Salvador, March 5, 2023.

Associated Press

The case has become one of the most contentious amid a slew of legal battles being waged against the Republican administration that has put the White House on a collision course with the federal courts. Administration officials have repeatedly criticized judges for reigning in the president's actions, accusing the courts of improperly impinging on his executive powers.

Trump and his allies have called for impeaching Boasberg, prompting a rare statement from Chief Justice John Roberts, who said "impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision."

Boasberg said He wrote that the government's "conduct betrayed a desire to outrun the equitable reach of the Judiciary."

Boasberg said the government could avoid contempt proceedings if it takes custody of the deportees, who were sent to the El Salvador prison in violation of his order, so they have a chance to challenge their removal. It was not clear how that would work because the judge said the government "would not need to release any of those individuals, nor would it need to transport them back to

the homeland." The judge did not say which official or officials could be held in contempt. He is giving the government until April 23 to explain the steps it has taken to remedy the violation, or instead identify the individual or people who made the decision not to turn the planes around.

In a separate case, the administration has acknowledged mistakenly deporting Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the El Salvador prison, but does not intend to return him to the U.S. despite a Supreme Court ruling that the administration must "facilitate" his release. □

An advertisement for Aruba featuring a family of four (two adults and two children) sitting on a sandy beach, playing with sand toys. The background shows the ocean and some buildings in the distance. The Aruba Tourism Authority logo is at the bottom left, and the text "ARUBA is our home" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the image, there is a quote about protecting nature and culture, followed by a "Happy Holy week!" message and the Aruba Tourism Authority logo again.

10 guards charged over the fatal beating of a New York inmate, including 2 with murder

By MICHAEL HILL and DAVE COLLINS

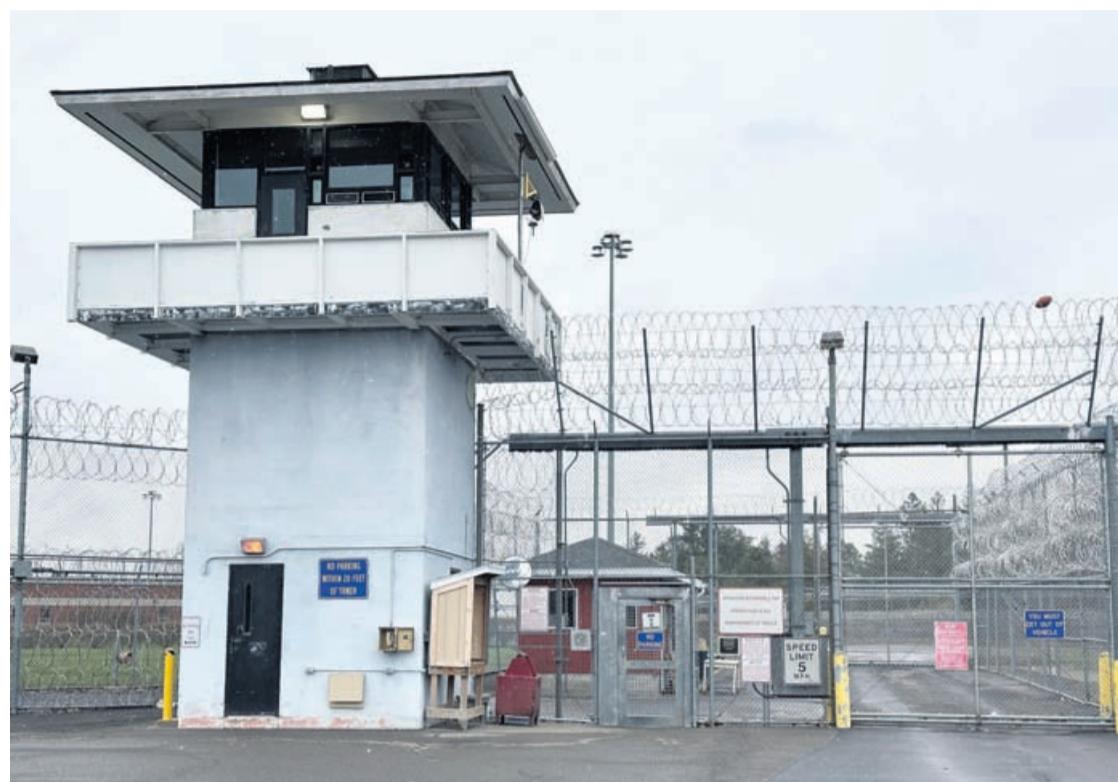
Associated Press

UTICA, N.Y. (AP) — Ten New York prison guards were charged Wednesday in connection with the fatal beating of a 22-year-old inmate last month including two charged with murder. It's the second time a group of correctional officers in the state was indicted for a death behind bars this year.

The indictment says several guards severely beat Messiah Nantwi, a prisoner at the Mid-State Correctional Facility, who was hospitalized and died on March 1 "due to massive head trauma and numerous other injuries to his body."

Three guards are accused of plotting to lie about Nantwi having a makeshift knife in his room.

In addition to the 10 guards, six other correctional officers agreed to cooperate with the investigation, a special prosecutor overseeing the probe said. Two will plead guilty to felonies and four will plead guilty to



The Mid-State Correctional Facility in Marcy, N.Y. is shown on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Associated Press

misdemeanors, Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick is also the prosecutor in the death of Robert Brooks, who was fatally beaten late last year at the Marcy Correctional Facility just across the street from the Mid-State prison. Six

guards have pleaded not guilty to murder charges in Brooks' death and other prison employees have been charged.

The Utica-area facility was one of many state prisons struggling to function during a three-week wildcat strike by guards upset over

working conditions, which forced the governor to send in National Guard troops to maintain operations.

Incarcerated people and their advocates complained that services and conditions deteriorated during the walkout.

Lawyers for the two guards charged with second-degree murder, Jonah Levi and Caleb Blair, entered not guilty pleas at an indictment hearing Wednesday. The other eight guards also entered not guilty pleas.

Levi, Blair and three other guards Thomas Eck, Craig Klemick and Daniel Burger also are charged with first-degree manslaughter. Those five guards and another officer Sgt. Francis Chandler were further charged with gang assault. The indictment said six of the 10 guards assaulted Nantwi, while the other four were accused of trying to cover it up including by filing false reports and cleaning up blood in Nantwi's cell in an effort to destroy evidence.

The beatings and lack of urgency about getting him medical attention "demonstrated depraved indifference" for his life, the indictment said.

Gov. Kathy Hochul called it a "horrific crime" in announcing the indictments Tuesday. □

Army and Air Force libraries are ordered to review books for DEI material

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army and Air Force libraries have been told to go through their stacks to find books related to diversity, equity and inclusion, according to new memos obtained by

The Associated Press.

The orders from service leaders come about two weeks after the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, removed nearly 400 books from its library after being told by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's

office to get rid of those that promote DEI.

The latest Army and Air Force orders are part of the Trump administration's far-reaching efforts to purge so-called DEI content from federal agencies.

The memos suggest that any removal of books will only happen after the initial lists are reviewed more closely. That slower pace may reflect a desire to be more careful about what books are pulled from shelves after the Navy faced criticism over some of those it removed.

Books on the Holocaust, histories of feminism, civil rights and racism, as well as Maya Angelou's famous autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," were among the 381 books that were removed from the U.S. Naval Academy's Nimitz Library.

The Army memo was sent to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, the Army War College in Pennsylvania and several other service departments. It says they must review their collections and any books promoting DEI, gender ideology and critical race theory "in a manner that subverts meritocracy and unity" must be removed "pending additional guidance."

The memo signed by Derrick Anderson, acting assistant Army secretary for manpower says a list must be provided to the Army's chief librarian by Wednesday. The order also applies to libraries under the authority of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, Army Special Operations Command and the Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School.

The Air Force memo, meanwhile, directs the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colorado, to review all of its titles for anything related to DEI, gender ideology and critical race theory. The school must provide an interim list by April 30 and a final list by May 30.

That memo was signed by Gwendolyn DeFilippi, the acting assistant secretary for manpower, and did not specify other libraries within the Air Force.

The three military academies had not been included in President Donald Trump's executive order in January that banned DEI instruction, programs or curriculum in kindergarten through 12th grade in schools that receive federal funding. That is because the academies are colleges. □



Cadets arrive for the graduation ceremony of the U.S. Military Academy at Michie Stadium on May 27, 2023, in West Point, N.Y.

Associated Press

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Man gets life in prison in killing of transgender model in the South Caucasus nation of Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — A man was convicted Wednesday of stabbing to death a transgender actor and model in her apartment in Georgia last year, a killing that shocked the South Caucasus nation and came a day after lawmakers passed legislation that severely restricted LGBTQ+ rights.

Beka Jaiani, 26, was sentenced to life in prison after being found guilty of murder with particular cruelty and beating of Kesaria Abramidze, 37.

Jaiani had partially admitted guilt but rejected accusations of particular cruelty or that there were gender-based motives for his actions. He was not in the Tbilisi courtroom for the verdict, saying his psychological and emotional state prevented his being there, but added he regretted his actions.

His lawyer, Giorgi Mdinardze, denounced the verdict as "based solely on moral considerations rather than moral grounds," and said he would appeal the conviction.



Georgian far right supporters hold a banner reading, "No to LGBT darkness," in front of parliament during a rally against Pride Week in Tbilisi, Georgia, on July 2, 2022.

Associated Press

According to media reports, Jaiani and Abramidze were in a relationship for about two years and fought a lot before the killing in September 2024. A day after the killing, dozens of mourners brought flowers and candles to a makeshift memorial in cen-

tral Tbilisi to Abramidze, whom members of the LGBTQ+ community praised as a symbol of strength and freedom. Although activists did not link the killing to the passage of the legislation, some feared the new laws could lead to an increase in hate crimes.

Her death was a chilling reminder of the LGBTQ+ community's vulnerability in Georgia, a country of 3.7 million people where the Orthodox Church wields significant influence, and demonstrations against gay rights are common.

LGBTQ+ rights were severe-

ly curtailed by the laws that banned same-sex marriage, adoptions by same-sex couples and public endorsement and depictions of LGBTQ+ relationships and people in the media. The laws also banned gender-affirming care and changing gender designations in official documents. The bill was introduced by Georgia Dream, the long-time ruling party, which opponents have accused of steering the country toward Russia's orbit despite popular sentiment for closer ties with Europe.

Georgian Dream was set up by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a billionaire who made his fortune in Russia and served briefly as Georgia's prime minister in 2012. It promised to restore civil rights and "reset" relations with Moscow, which fought a brief war with Georgia in 2008 over the breakaway province of South Ossetia. Russia then recognized the independence of South Ossetia and another breakaway Georgian province, Abkhazia, and established military bases there. □

Maldives bars travelers with Israeli passports over Gaza war

MALE, Maldives (AP) — The Maldives has changed its immigration law to bar people from entering the country with Israeli passports in a show of outrage over the war in Gaza.

The amendment was passed by Parliament on Monday and approved by President Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday, according to a statement from the president's office. The Maldives immigration service clarified that Israeli citizens who have a second passport would be able to enter the country.

The Cabinet took the decision nearly a year ago but the government did not formalize it until this week.

"The ratification reflects the government's firm stance in response to the continuing atrocities and ongoing acts of genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinian people," the statement said.

Maldives is a tiny archipelago state south of India known as a high-end tourist destination. It is predominantly a Sunni Muslim nation where preaching and practicing other faiths is legally banned.

According to the latest available immigration statistics, 59 people with Israeli passports entered the Maldives in February. □



Foreign tourists arrive in a resort in the Kurumba island in Maldives, Feb. 12, 2012.

Associated Press

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Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!

Zimbabwe farmers' group rejects compensation deal for past land seizures

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) —

A group representing many of the white farmers whose land was seized during Zimbabwe's land reforms over two decades ago has rejected a compensation deal and said it wants to reopen negotiations with the government.

The group has criticized the compensation that some farmers have accepted as "token" amounts.

There was little sign Wednesday that the government of the southern African nation would reopen talks. It has said the compensation deal represents closure.

About 4,000 white farmers lost their homes and swaths of land when the Black-majority country's then-president, Robert Mugabe, launched the redistribution program in 2000. Mugabe pointed to the need to address colonial-era land inequities after the south-



From left: Katrina Liebenberg, 17, together with her cousin Natalie van Staden, Natalie's mother Maria, brother Chad, 11, sister Lee-Ann, 17, and grandmother Aletta, on the back verandah of the farm cottage, March 2, 2000, where they have been besieged for four days by Zimbabwe War Veterans.

Associated Press

ern African nation gained independence from white minority rule in 1980.

Zimbabwe's finance minister, Mthuli Ncube, last

week announced that the government had started paying compensation to white farmers who lost land and property during the re-

forms. He said the government had approved the disbursement of \$3.1 million, equivalent to 1% of the total compensation claim

of \$311 million.

According to the deal, the farmers would receive 1% of their claim in cash, with the balance settled through the issuance of treasury bonds over 10 years.

A first batch of 378 farmers has already been paid out of 740 farms approved for compensation, a move confirmed by Andrew Pascoe, who represents the beneficiary farmers. He said they were "extremely grateful."

The dissenting group representing nearly half of the 4,000 commercial farmers asserted that those accepting the payments were doing so out of desperation. "The limited number of farmers who have accepted the government's revised deal have generally done so because they are destitute and require urgent funds for food, accommodation and health-care," representative Deon Theron said. □

The EU moves to fast-track asylum claims by migrants from 7 countries to speed deportation



The Italian navy ship Libra approaches the port, as Italian authorities transfer 40 migrants with no permission to remain in the country to Italian-run migration detention centers in Albania, in Shengjin, northwestern Albania, Friday, April 11, 2025.

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Migrants from Bangladesh, Colombia, Morocco and Tunisia are unlikely to be granted asylum in Europe and should have their applications fast-tracked so they can be sent home more quickly, the European Union's executive branch said Wednesday.

The European Commission said that seven countries – also including Egypt, India and Kosovo – should be designated as "safe third countries." Applications by their citizens for international protection in Europe would be wrapped up in three months rather than the usual six.

In total, more than 200,000 people from these countries applied for asylum last year. A year ago, EU nations endorsed sweeping reforms to the bloc's failed asylum system. The rules were meant to resolve the issues that have divided the 27

countries since well over 1 million migrants swept into Europe in 2015, most fleeing war in Syria and Iraq.

But the new rules are not set to enter force until at least June 2026, and the commission is desperate to speed up procedures, including by deporting people more quickly, to ease pressure on migrant reception facilities. "Many member states are facing a significant backlog of asylum applications, so anything we can do now to support faster asylum decisions is essential," EU Migration Commissioner Magnus Brunner said. Brunner said the commission's proposal "can help member states deal with claims more quickly." He insisted that each applicant would be assessed on a case-by-case basis and "subject to the scrutiny of national courts," so people could appeal. □



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Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses.

Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you're wanting to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's fa-



vorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternative-

ly, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this

area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Known locally as Fisherman's Hut, here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "funchi hasa"

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry

sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture,

but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you



can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN. □

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



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(Oranjestad)—Up to grab an early dinner after a day of shopping or cruising? Take advantage of L'Avenue's Early Bird Special, and experience their innovative twist of traditional Belgian cuisine!

Located in a cozy nook at The Cove Mall—a short walking distance from the Holiday Inn and Paseo Herencia, this Belgian and French bistro offers a delicious and rich menu available through lunch and dinner from 11am to

10pm. Enjoy your lunch and/or dinner in a cool, air-conditioned interior area of the restaurant, accompanied by the warm lights and chic design that emphasizes the restaurant's laid-back, yet sophisticated ambience.

Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches—with a healthy selection of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even mussels and rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience!

But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of \$29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

L'Avenue honors and takes pride in serving the tradition-



al Belgian and French flavors, but does not shy away from offering a flexible menu for their guests' needs. That's right, L'Avenue also offers to cater for their guests' dietary restrictions, making sure that each guest gets well taken care of!

More information

L'Avenue is situated at The Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reservation or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail info@lavenuearuba.com, or visit their website at lavenuearuba.com.



Connect with nature: Miralamar Trail

(Oranjestad)—Discover the beauty of Aruba's natural landscape with a hike along the Miralamar Trail, one of the many treasures inside Parke Nacional Arikok, accessible with your conservation day-pass, available for purchase at the Visitor Center.

This trail takes you through rich, dry-land veg-

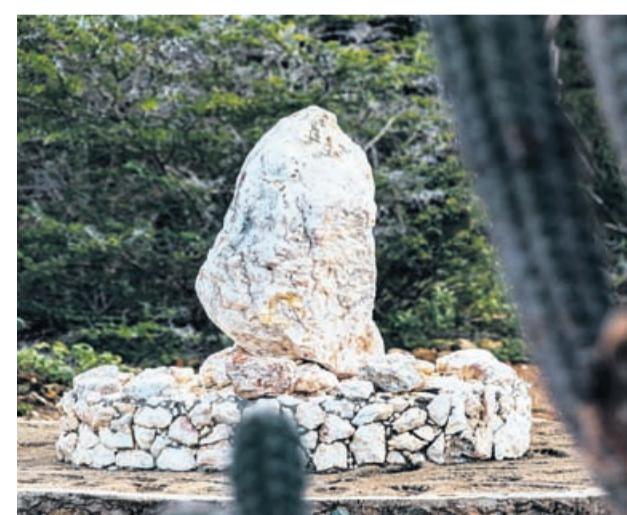


etation and leads you to the Miralamar Gold Mine Ruins, where history and nature meet. Along the way, take in the diverse flora and fauna, including towering cacti, unique xeric plants, and incredible wildlife such as the Aruba Whiptail, locally known as the 'Cododo' - all within this protected landscape.

The hike distance cover 2KM (2.1 Mi) and takes about 1.5 hours to complete. It's been suggested to start your hike early in the morning, around 8 am.

Want to deepen your experience and learn more?

Explore this location under the guidance of our knowledgeable Nature Experience Ranger. Email the Aruba Conservation Foundation at reservations@acf.aw with the subject line "Reservation – Miralamar Trail" and include your



preferred date and number of participants. ACF will gladly assist you with planning your guided nature hike.□

Picture credit: Aruba Conservation Foundation on Facebook.

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Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell...□

**Important notice:
Aruba Today takes a break
for Easter Weekend**

(Oranjestad)—For the upcoming Easter Weekend, the Aruba Today paper will not be available from Friday April 18th to Monday April 21st. We'll be back on all newsstands and our website on Tuesday, April 22nd.

We apologize to our dear readers for any inconvenience. The Aruba Today Team wishes you a very Happy Easter, and we hope you spend a wonderful time with your friends and family over the weekend. Happy Holidays!□

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket) □

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Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed.

This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjes-

tad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign

can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

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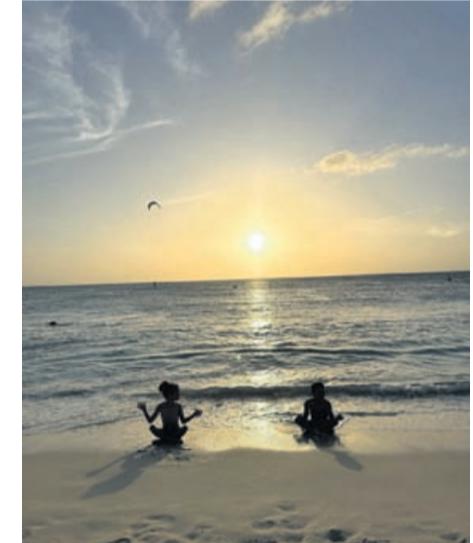
Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day

again.

For today we received a lovely message from Michelle Naik from The UK!

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is enjoying Arashi beach at sunset with the family."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Aruba's neighborhoods: the meaning behind their names



Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want

to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbeta as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much

information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Anaboi instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the second world war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the



end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbeta map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explained and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Scatter

1 Move borders, perhaps

6 Common eye color

11 Fragrance

12 Banish

13 Show uncertainty

14 Bona fide

15 Tooth layer

17 Outdated

19 Brooch

20 Get-up-and-go

23 Untie, perhaps

25 Titled woman

26 Asked to one's home

28 Julia Louis-Dreyfus show

29 Astaire's partner

30 Mess up

31 Traffic snarl

32 Do fabric work

33 Quilt cloth

35 Fable fellow

38 Fit for the fleet

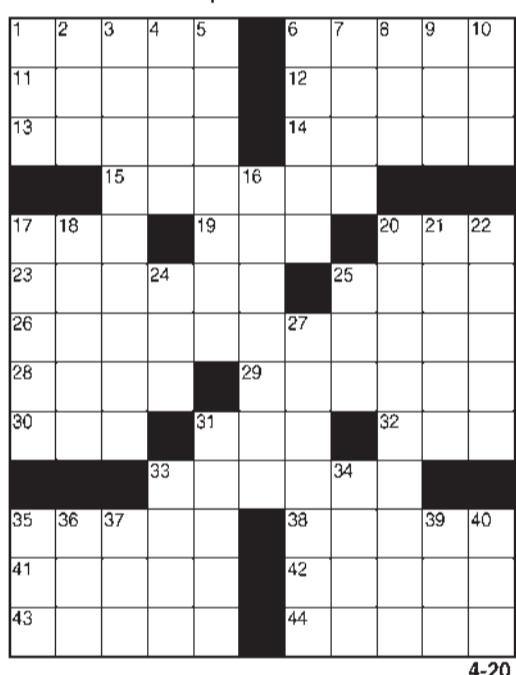
41 George W.'s wife

42 Musical drama

43 Hog the mirror



17 Martini garnish	31 Kyoto setting
18 Solitary sort	33 Heart
20 Made a lot	34 Lt.'s superior
21 Abrasive powder	35 The Matterhorn, for one
22 In itself	36 Lobe spot
24 Cautious taste	37 Take to court
25 Pound choice	39 "You — Here"
27 Spotted game pieces	40 Statute



4-20

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

PIMSTPC JTEE MLVP G YGP'Q
SIYB TPMI G FGQM EB YIVB
ALTFHEN GPK BWBFBMTDBEN
MSGP G KGFSQSLPK. — ALBBP
DTFMIVTG

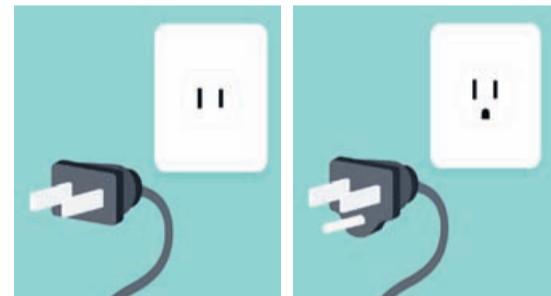
Cryptoquote: TRUST ME THAT AS I IGNORE ALL LAW TO HELP THE SLAVE, SO WILL I IGNORE IT ALL TO PROTECT AN ENSLAVED WOMAN. — SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Cruise ship Schedule: April 15 - 20 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
TUE	15	CELEBRITY REFLECTION CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	23.00 23.00	B C 1 1
WED	16	MARELLA DISCOVERY FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	20.00 ****	C E 1 1
THU	17	NIEUW AMSTERDAM VILLA VIE ODYSSEY	07.00 08.00	17.00 ****	B C 1 1
FRI	18	VILLA VIE ODYSSEY - Dept.	****	22.00	C -
SUN	20	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Trump plans to end the IRS Direct File program for free tax filing

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration plans to eliminate the IRS' Direct File program, an electronic system for filing tax returns directly to the agency for free, according to two people familiar with the decision.

The program developed during Joe Biden's presidency was credited by users with making tax filing easy, fast and economical. But Republican lawmakers and commercial tax preparation companies complained it was a waste of taxpayer money because free filing programs already exist, although they are hard to use. □

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BONDIA

How to reach us!

The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba, including Weststraat, Schepstraat, and Caya G.F. Betico Croes. The Aruba Today office is located on Weststraat, and the Bondia office is located on Schepstraat. A magnifying glass highlights the Aruba Today office area.

ARUBA TODAY

BONDIA

How to reach us!

The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba, including Weststraat, Schepstraat, and Caya G.F. Betico Croes. The Aruba Today office is located on Weststraat, and the Bondia office is located on Schepstraat. A magnifying glass highlights the Aruba Today office area.

219172

A sweet 16 for Dude Perfect, from college trick shots to trusted sports and entertainment brand

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The five buddies who now comprise Dude Perfect had no intention of creating a brand or even a business 16 years ago when they started making a video of basketball trick shots while they were attending Texas A&M.

"My dad would say we



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From left, Garrett Hilbert, Coby Cotton, Tyler Toney, Cody Jones and Cory Cotton, the founding members of Dude Perfect, pose for a photo during an event at their new headquarters in Frisco, Texas, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025.

Associated Press

were procrastinating studying for finals at that time, which he is 100% correct," said Coby Cotton, whose twin brother Cory is also part of the group. "We were just having fun, and that's one thing that I am grateful to say has continued."

When they posted that first video on YouTube in April 2009, the nearly 3 1/2-minute clip was just a way to share with family and friends what they were doing on an \$80 portable basketball rim they bought for the backyard.

Things have expanded far beyond that small circle. And the tricks got much bigger, like the world record shot made from 856 feet high in Las Vegas two summers ago on the third day of attempts.

Dude Perfect now has more than 61 million subscribers on YouTube, with 482 videos that have gotten more than 18.5 billion total views. An "Average Dude vs. Steph Curry" video did 16 million views just four months ago.

The group's family-friendly content has gone beyond just basketball shots and is big business, among the top 1% of channels on the second most-viewed website in the world.

Professional athletes, celebrities and musicians want to be part of their productions, both short form and longer videos. Among those who have taken part in recent Dude Perfect projects are Tom Brady, Caitlin Clark and Paul Skenes; the pitcher was blindfolded when he struck out 6-foot-6 Cody Jones, the DP member known as "Tall Guy."

The group last year hired its first CEO after acquiring at least \$100 million in capital from a private investment firm. There are plans for a Dude Perfect theme park, and earlier this year the group opened a new headquarters. The facility located in a North Texas warehouse district includes a full basketball court with moving rims on one wall, half a football field with a regulation goalpost, a pickleball court, a putting area, a hidden candy vault and room for expansion to include experiences for fans.

"A sports lover's Barbie dreamhouse" is how new CEO Andrew Yaffe described the 80,000-square-foot facility.

"If you ask the guys what they intended in 2009, I don't know that this would have been in their wildest

dreams," said Yaffe, who previously was a senior NBA executive overseeing the league's social, digital and original content. "We think about this is what a media company looks like in 2025. And it's really exciting to think about what that can be in 2030 or 2035."

More than trick shots
Dude Perfect has evolved from that original video shot with a single camera into successful content creators, with a mix of sports and comedy that is more than just basketball shots. The group will embark on another live tour later this year.

There have been nearly 50 episodes of "Overtime" since 2018, a variety show usually around 25 minutes with a variety of segments and often special guests. Curry in that recent episode took part in a 3-point shooting contest using a football, Frisbee, pickle ball and soccer ball before finally a basketball.

There are occasional videos such as "All Sports Golf Battle" when on a course without actual golf clubs, including once at Augusta National when Bryson DeChambeau used items like a tennis racket, Frisbee and pool stick. "Stereotype" videos poke fun at

any number of groups or events.

"They've built a media empire that brings families together, whether it's trick shots, epic challenges, live events or experiences that truly redefine what it means to connect with fans," said Brian Albert, who leads Google's US YouTube video deals and creative teams. "They are creator trailblazers."

Safe for families

Even before each of the Dudes became fathers there are now 16 children ages 10 and under between them, and another on the way they wanted to be one of the world's most trusted brands for families to enjoy together.

"Early on, we met through some Bible studies and so we knew we weren't going to cuss in our videos, we weren't going to have alcohol promotion," Jones said. "Early on, it actually hurt our brand because people were going to YouTube in order to kind of have that wild side of things. And since, it's only helped because we've become brand safe."

Tyler Toney, the bearded Dude often front-and-center in videos, said that is the best thing they hear from parents.

"But it wasn't until we had our own kids where we'll be up here at the office filming and then I go home and now I'm on my TV at home and my boys are watching," Toney said. "I get to hear myself a lot and it gets old, and I apologize now to all the parents for how loud we are in a lot of the videos. But it's cool to see that even in our families the importance of that, having that quality entertainment that we can enjoy with our own kids."

For the record books
Dude Perfect's first record for longest shot came from the third deck of Texas A&M's football stadium in the fall of 2009. That came months after the initial video of trick shots, which had been followed by one they did at a Christian-based camp that summer. □

Giants GM Schoen open to Travis Hunter playing offense and defense if they select him in NFL draft

By The Associated Press

The New York Giants are open to allowing Colorado standout Travis Hunter to play on both sides of the ball if they wind up using the third overall pick in next week's NFL draft on the cornerback and wide receiver.

Giants general manager Joe Schoen said during the team's pre-draft news conference Wednesday that it "would not be afraid to play him on both sides of the ball." Hunter has made it clear he intends to play both offense and defense in the NFL, telling CBS Sports recently that his response to any team trying to limit him would be "never playing football again."

Hunter not only won the Heisman Trophy, the most prestigious award in college football, he also took home the Bednarik Award as college football's top defensive player and was selected as The Associated Press player of the year. He caught 96 passes for 1,258 yards and 15 touchdowns while also making 35 tackles, breaking up 11 passes and picking off four.

That has some NFL scouts rating him as both the best wide receiver and best cornerback available in this year's draft.

Still, playing both ways in college is much different than the NFL, where Schoen said the mental demands could be even more taxing on Hunter as the physical toll in playing the majority of the snaps that take place during a game. "Offense is very hard to learn and then the defense on a weekly basis it's not college anymore where, 'Hey, these are our basic plays, this is our basic defense and we're going to go play cover-3h against Kansas, we're going to play cover-3 against Nebraska,'" Schoen said. "There's a lot more week-to-week matchup type-stuff that our coaches are doing."

"So, just how much can you handle mentally where you can go out there and execute and they can trust



Colorado wide receiver Travis Hunter takes part in passing drills during Colorado's NFL football pro day Friday, April 4, 2025, in Boulder, Colo.

Associated Press

you to do your job?" Hunter insisted in a recent interview with The AP that he was capable of handling the load. "I wouldn't doubt the kid. He's that type of athlete," Schoen said. "He's had that type of production, the number of snaps he plays in a game, doesn't sit down, goes over, gets a drink of water and gets back out on the field." The Giants aren't necessarily where Hunter will land, either. They have temporarily solidified their quarterback room with Russell Wilson, Jameis Winston and Tommy DeVito on the roster, but they could be interested in a long-term solution, such as Hunter's teammate, Shedeur Sanders. □

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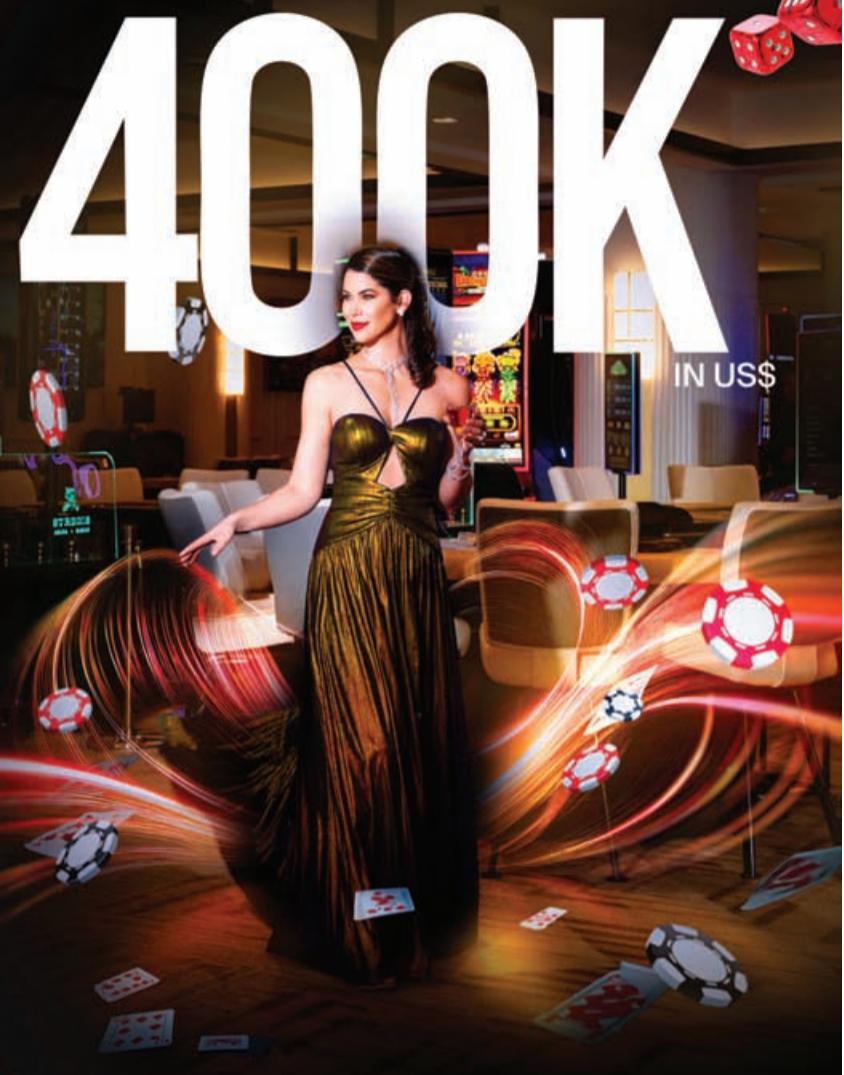
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For Thunder and Cavaliers, it's still a waiting game to see who they'll face in Round 1 of playoffs

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Oklahoma City and Cleveland are the top seeds in the NBA playoffs, which comes with some perks. They'll have home-court advantage for at least three rounds and, presumably, an easier path than others to advancing. It also comes with a challenge: They'll have just one full day to really prepare for Game 1.

Some teams will have a full week to prepare for their first playoff foe. Some teams get four or five days. But given the way the play-in tournament is structured, the Thunder and Cavaliers won't know their foes until late Friday night then will open Round 1 matchups against those opponents on Sunday, with only one practice day to lock in on a game plan.

"It's tough. It's interesting," Milwaukee coach Doc Riv-



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) celebrates a turnover by the Memphis Grizzlies in the second half of an NBA play-in tournament basketball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Associated Press

ers said. "There were years where I had that issue and it's definitely more challenging."

The exact same scenario didn't hold the Thunder back a year ago. New Orleans won the Western Conference's elimination play-in game for the No. 8 seed on a Friday, started a series at top-seeded Oklahoma City on Sunday, the Thunder squeaked out a win in Game 1 and went on to sweep the matchup with a couple of blowouts in there.

And just like last year, the Thunder are spending these extra days working on themselves.

"It's a unique situation to have this much time in between games and to not know your opponent," Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault said.

"Now, our opponent won't be able to prepare. □